

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 ABF-01 INR-07 L-03 /029 W

-----029992 171345Z /47 40

R 170829Z JAN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 446

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

JCS

CINCPAC

CINCPACREPPHIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 MANILA 855

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AGAO, MASS, MARR, RP

SUBJECT: GAO VISIT ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE

1. SUMMARY. GAO TEAM FOUND JUSMAG OPERATIONS TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-92 ALTHOUGH THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ABOUT LONG-TERM NATURE OF SEVERAL TECHNICAL TRAINING TEAMS. TEAM ASKED ABOUT RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND BASE RIGHTS. AMBASSADOR POINTED UP BASIC FACT THAT SO LONG AS WE NEED BASES AND AFP NEEDS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, GOP WILL LIEKLY SEE A REQUIREMENT FOR US TO PROVIDE MAP AND FMS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR THE FUNGIBLE RESOURCES FOR THE GOP TO BUY THAT EQUIPMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. GAO TEAM (LOUIS RODRIQUEZ AND ALLAN RICHARDSON) SPENT JANUARY 4-14 AT EMBASSY AND JUSMAG TO DETERMINE A) WHETHER THERE WAS FULL COMPLIANCE WITH PUBLIC LAW 95-92 AND B) WHETHER THERE WOULD BE A CONTINUING REQUIREMENT FOR A MAG IN THE PHILIPPINES. IN THE LATTER REGARD, GAO WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND BASE RIGHTS.

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3. AT EXIT CONFERENCE WITH AMBASSADOR JANUARY 14, GAO TEAM CHIEF RODRIQUEZ SAID THAT JUSMAG IS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE MANNING REQUIREMENTS OF PL 95-92. GAO FOUND NO MAG PERSONNEL SERVING AS TECHNICAL ADVISERS OR PROVIDING TRAINING AS PRESCRIBED BY THAT LAW. RODRIQUEZ EXPRESSED SOME CONCERN, HOWEVER, THAT SEVERAL MAG TECHNICAL TRAINING TEAMS, WHILE APPROPRIATE IN

FUNCTION, HAVE BEEN OPERATING LONGER THAN WOULD SEEM REQUIRED. HE SAID THAT ONE TEAM HAS BEEN AROUND FOR 30 YEARS (TEAM AT CAVITE SHIPYARD). RODRIQUEZ NOTED THAT ALL THE TECHNICAL TRAINING TEAMS ARE SCHEDULED FOR PHASE OUT IN FY 79.

4. RODRIQUEZ ASKED THE AMBASSADOR THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

A) HOW DO YOU AS AMBASSADOR OVERSEE THE MAG?
THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE SEEKS (1) TO INSURE THAT THE MAG PRESENCE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT US POLICIES AND OBJECTIVES IN THE PHILIPPINES, (2) TO CONTAIN US MANPOWER AT THE MAG TO THE MINIMUM NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT US POLICIES, (3) TO INSURE THAT GENERAL OPERATIONS AND ATTITUDES AT THE MAG ARE APPROPRIATE FOR RELATIONS WITH THE GOP.

B) HAVE THERE BEEN ANY CHANGES IN CONTROL OVER THE MAG BECAUSE OF THE NEW LAW (95-92)? THE AMBASSADOR CONFIRMED THAT THE NEW LAW DOES PROVIDE THE MEANS FOR GREATER CONTROL OVER THE MAG. THE CURRENT PROCEDURES FOR HANDLING ARMS REQUESTS WERE REVIEWED, STRESSING THE DIRECT ROLE THE EMBASSY PLAYS IN SCREENING AND FORWARDING REQUESTS FOR WASHINGTON CONSIDERATION.

C) HOW EFFECTIVE IS MAG IN CARRYING OUT ITS PROGRAM?
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THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT MAG IS DOING A GOOD JOB AT THE CURRENT PERSONNEL LEVEL. HE FURTHER OBSERVED THAT BGEN MAPP IS A GOOD MANAGER AS EVIDENCED BY HIS EFFORTS TO TIGHTEN THE STRUCTURE (RODRIQUEZ HAD PREVIOUSLY NOTED THAT MAG WAS MOVING TO A FUNCTIONAL STRUCTURE).

D) IS THERE A POSITION TO PROVIDE OR NOT PROVIDE MAP IN CONNECTION WITH BASE RIGHTS? THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT SO LONG AS WE NEED THE BASES AND SO LONG AS THE AFP NEEDS MILITARY EQUIPMENT, THE GOP WILL LIKELY SEE A REQUIREMENT FOR US TO PROVIDE MAP AND FMS FOR MILITARY EQUIPMENT OR THE FUNGIBLE RESOURCES FOR THE GOP TO BUY THAT EQUIPMENT.

E) RODRIQUEZ REFERRED TO A VIEW EXPRESSED BY AMB. SULLIVAN IN A MESSAGE LAST YEAR TO THE EFFECT THAT MAP WOULD NOT BE A FEASIBLE QUID BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE NO ASSURANCE THE CONGRESS WOULD APPROVE INDIVIDUAL LINE ITEMS. THE AMBASSADOR WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THIS CITATION (NOR CAN WE FIND ANY RECORD THAT THIS WAS FORMALLY STATED) BUT POINTED OUT THAT MESSAGES HAVE BEEN SENT FROM THE EMBASSY POINTING OUT SUCH PROBLEMS BUT THAT THIS DOES NOT DIMINISH

OUR RECOGNITION OF THE REQUIREMENT TO HELP ON GOP MILITARY NEEDS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 MANILA 855

F) IF MAP WERE NOT NEEDED FOR BASE RIGHTS WHAT
WOULD BE THE FUTURE OF THE MAG? (IN POSING THIS
QUESTION, RODRIQUEZ NOTED THAT THE AFP COULD NOW TAKE
OVER THE FMS FUNCTIONS WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE MAG WITH
ONLY MAP AND IMET TO OVERSEE.) THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED
THAT IT WAS UNREALISTIC TO ASSUME THAT THERE WOULD BE NO
RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND BASE RIGHTS.
THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT CONGRESSIONAL CONCERNS ARE
KNOWN AND NEED TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN TRYING TO
FIND ITEMS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE WHICH MEET PHILIPPINE
AND US REQUIREMENTS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID THAT ONE AREA
WORTH EXPLORING IS PHILIPPINE AIR SURVEILLANCE. A
BETTER RADAR SYSTEM IS NEEDED AND US TECHNICAL AND MANA-
GERIAL ASSISTANCE COULD BE USEFUL. CONTINUING IN A MORE
GENERAL VEIN, THE AMBASSADOR SAID IT WAS TOO SOON TO
CONCLUDE WHETHER THE MAP PROGRAM WILL OR WILL NOT BE
USED TO MAINTAIN OUR BASE RIGHTS. HE NOTED THAT ANOTHER
ASSISTANCE ALTERNATIVE IS SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE
BUT THERE ARE THOSE IN WASHINGTON WHO HAVE PROBLEMS WITH
THIS APPROACH. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT IT SHOULD ALSO
NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT CONGRESS LOOKS TO THE MAG TO OVERSEE
END-USE UTILIZATION AND TO PREVENT TRANSFERS TO THIRD
COUNTRIES. RODRIQUEZ EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THESE
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REQUIREMENTS ARE MARGINAL UNDER THE PREVAILING CIRCUMSTANCES.

G) COULD THERE BE REDUCTION IN THE MAG? THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT MODES REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE BUT THAT ANY MOVE TO DOWNGRADE THE RANK OF THE CHIEF COULD HAVE AN ADVERSE IMPACT ON THE BASE DISCUSSIONS.

5. SUMMING UP, THE AMBASSADOR SAID WE HAVE SOME HOPE OF REACHING A BASES AGREEMENT THIS YEAR. THIS MEANS THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE "QUID" PROBLEM BECAUSE THE GOP WILL CONTINUE TO RELATE THAT AGREEMENT TO TIS MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.
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